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Conferences held at the East German Ministry of the Food Industry [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] revealed the fact that no reserve grain stocks were available in East German storage depots. All East German agencies concerned with grain supplies allegedly awaited the arrival of new grain imports with great impatience. No information was available if and when such grain imports would be forthcoming.

25X1 [ ] Comments. In early March 1954, the potato and fodder supply situation became critical in East Germany. One of the reasons why Minister Wach was deposed is that he allocated 140 kg of potatoes per head of the population instead of 125 kg as would have been advisable on account of the poor potato crop. As only 60 percent of the area reserved for winter grain was sowed, this resulted in an acute shortage of fodder for the feeding of livestock. The situation is so serious that the maintenance of livestock is endangered. With regard to this situation, Gregor, East German Minister of Foreign Trade, travelled to Moscow in early February 1954 in order to negotiate for the delivery of feed grains, meat, and butter. However, Gregor was allegedly given to understand that, for political reasons, Moscow was forced to give priority to Great Britain for the delivery of foodstuffs and fodder. It is, therefore, believed that the East German Government will make no further grain allocations until it has received definite assurances that additional grains and fodder will be delivered by the USSR. Should such help not be forthcoming, a serious food crisis is bound to occur in East Germany. Grain imports by rail from Eastern Bloc states arriving between September 1953 and January 1954 were unusually low, averaging only 29,000 tons per month as against a monthly average of 57,000 tons for all of 1953. It may be assumed that a total of 1.25 million tons of grain were imported by East Germany in 1953. An import of 935,000 tons of grain was arranged with the USSR. Total grain imports amounted to about one fifth of the entire grain crop in East Germany.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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